GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:208
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME
PARSURAM MAJHI;PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Immunisation Programme of the Government specially among the children of the under-privileged class has been adversely affected on account of lack of infrastructural support and supply of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of children covered under the Immunisation Programme as per the Census 2001;

(d) whether a comprehensive action plan to fight these diseases has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 208 FOR 5.3.2003

The Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) was launched in 1985, with the objective to reduce infant and child mortality and morbidity due to vaccine preventable diseases, namely Neo Natal Tetanus, childhood Tuberculosis, Diptheiria, Whooping Cough, Measles and Polio. The programme was expanded in a phased manner so as to cover all the districts in the country by 1990. In 1992, the UIP was integrated in the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme and subsequently it was integrated in the Reproductive and Child Health Programme in 1997.

These immunization services are provided through a network of sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres in the rural areas. In urban areas, most Government hospitals and post partum centres provide these immunization services.

The target of vaccination for each year is around 2.6 crore pregnant women and 2.5 crore infants.

Since 1990, the coverage of immunization reported has always been more than 85% for all vaccines. Since the implementation of this programme, there has been a reduction to the extent of over 78% of all vaccine preventable diseases and there has been a virtual elimination of the polio virus from most parts of the country, except in some endemic States in the north.

However, the Government is continually monitoring the progress of these programmes through an independent evaluation of the coverage.

According to the National Family Health Survey, 1999, nationally the evaluated coverage for BCG was 71.6%, DPT - 55.1%, Polio - 62.8% and Measles - 50.7%. However, there are wide interstate differentials in coverage of immunization among children. While most of the States have been implementing the programme satisfactorily, the implementation of the programme in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are not up to optimal levels primarily due to infrastructural deficiencies.

In order to improve the coverage in all States, especially in the poor performing States, additional support is being provided under the Immunization Programme in the form of mobility training, vaccine logistics, IEC, etc. 151 districts have been identified where the performance has been significantly poor and these districts are being additional supported through Reproductive and Child Health out-reach services scheme in order to provide extra input for improving the coverage. Cold chain equipment, vaccine vans and other equipments are progressively being replaced. The Government also provides vaccine as commodity assistance to all the States and there is no shortage of vaccine in any part of the country.

Under the Tenth Five Year Plan, a comprehensive Plan of Action to improve Routine Immunization has been included with special emphasis to provide support to poor performing States to meet their infrastructural gaps.